

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIEP-02 COME-00 EB-11

FEA-02 FPC-01 INT-08 OMB-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 STR-08

TRSE-00 DRC-01 IO-14 /202 W
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R 100635Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4013

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USNATO

USUN 1530

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY EC J-2

CINCUSAREUR

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI JPOI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ENGR, LOS, GR, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH PLANS FOR OIL EXPLORATION IN THE AEGEAN

SUMMARY: TURKISH PETROLEUM CORPORATION (TPAO) IS REPORTEDLY
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PREPARED TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH AN AMERICAN OIL SERVICES FIRM

FOR OIL PROSPECTING STUDIES IN THE AEGEAN. MEANWHILE, MAJOR OIL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE SAID HIS COMPANY IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE DISPUTED AREA OF THE AEGEAN WHILE THE TURKISH-GREEK DISPUTE REMAINS UNRESOLVED. END SUMMARY.

1. TURKISH REPRESENTATIVE OF GEOPHYSICAL SERVICES INC. (DALLAS, TEXAS) TOLD US MAY 7 THAT HIS COMPANY AND THE TURKISH PETROLEUM CORPORATION (TPAO) HAVE NEARLY COMPLETED NEGOTIATIONS FOR CONDUCTING OIL PROSPECTING STUDIES IN THE AEGEAN. A DRAFT CONTRACT HAS BEEN DRAWN UP, AND LOCAL REP IS NOW AWAITING AUTHORIZATION FROM DALLAS OFFICE BEFORE SIGNING FINAL AGREEMENT, WHICH REPORTEDLY CALLS FOR GEOPHYSICAL, GRAVITY, AND MAGNETIC STUDIES. WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY. EXACT VALUE OF THE CONTRACT IS STILL BEING NEGOTIATED. (TO DATE, ONLY PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS MAY 4 GUNAYDIN ARTICLE REPORTING THAT VALUE OF CONTRACT IS \$800,000.) TPAO OFFICIAL CONFIRMED IN PRIVATE THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH GSI WERE NEARLY COMPLETED, BUT TURKS ARE APPARENTLY DELAYING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT PENDING FINAL SIGNATURE OF CONTRACT.

2. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION ON SAME DAY, AMERICAN REP OF ATLANTIC RICHFIELD TOLD US THAT WHILE HIS COMPANY IS CONTINUING TO STUDY PROSPECTS FOR OFFSHORE EXPLORATION IN THE BLACK SEA, IT IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE AEGEAN WHILE THE DISPUTE WITH GREECE REMAINS UNRESOLVED. HE SAID THAT BASED ON PRESENT INFORMATION, DISPUTED AREA DID NOT APPEAR TO BE A PROMISING AREA FOR EXPLORATION ANYWAY AND THAT THE CHANCES WERE TOO HIGH OF BEING CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE IF THERE IS ANY TROUBLE BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE TPAO IS NOW APPARENTLY A STEP CLOSER TOWARD BEGINNING SEISMIC STUDIES IN AEGEAN, STATEMENT OF ATLANTIC RICHFIELD REP TENDS TO CONFIRM PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT MAJOR OIL COMPANIES AND INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS WITH SCARCE OFFSHORE DRILLING RIGS ARE

HESITANT TO EXPLORE FOR OIL IN THE DISPUTED AREA.
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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